

c.) Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule selected from the group consisting of:

a) a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence which is at least 75% homologous to a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:3, ~~the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number \_\_\_\_\_~~, or a complement thereof;

b) ~~a nucleic acid molecule comprising a fragment of at least 30 nucleotides of a nucleic acid comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:3, the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number \_\_\_\_\_, or a complement thereof;~~

c) a nucleic acid molecule which encodes a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence at least about 60% homologous to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, ~~or an amino acid sequence encoded by the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number \_\_\_\_\_; and~~

d) ~~a nucleic acid molecule which encodes a fragment of a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, or the polypeptide encoded by the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number \_\_\_\_\_, wherein the fragment comprises at least 10 contiguous amino acid residues of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, or the polypeptide encoded by the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number \_\_\_\_\_; and~~

e) c) a nucleic acid molecule which encodes a naturally occurring allelic variant of a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, ~~or an amino acid sequence encoded by the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as~~

Accession Number \_\_\_\_\_, wherein the nucleic acid molecule and which hybridizes to a complement of a nucleic acid molecule comprising SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:3 under stringent conditions.

2. (Currently Amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 which comprises ~~is selected from the group consisting of:~~

- a) ~~a nucleic acid molecule comprising~~
  - a) the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, ~~SEQ ID NO:3, or~~ the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number \_\_\_\_\_, or a complement thereof; and
  - b) a nucleic acid molecule which encodes a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, ~~or an amino acid sequence encoded by the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number \_\_\_\_\_.~~

3. (Currently Amended) The nucleic acid molecule of any one of claims 1, 2, 24 and 25 further comprising vector nucleic acid sequences.

4. (Currently Amended) The nucleic acid molecule of claim ~~1~~ 3 further comprising nucleic acid sequences encoding a heterologous polypeptide.

5. (Currently Amended) A host cell which contains the nucleic acid molecule of claim ~~1~~ 3.

6. (Original) The host cell of claim 5 which is a mammalian host cell.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~A non-human~~ The mammalian host cell of claim 6 which is non-human containing the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1.

Claims 8-11 (Cancelled).

12. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

a) ~~a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, or an amino acid sequence encoded by the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number \_\_\_\_\_;~~

b) ~~a fragment of a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, or an amino acid sequence encoded by the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number \_\_\_\_\_ wherein the fragment comprises at least 10 contiguous amino acids of SEQ ID NO:2, or the amino acid sequence encoded by the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number \_\_\_\_\_; and~~

c) ~~a naturally occurring allelic variant of a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, or an amino acid sequence encoded by the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number \_\_\_\_\_, wherein the polypeptide is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule which hybridizes to a complement of a nucleic acid molecule comprising SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:3, under stringent conditions; comprising culturing a host cell harboring the nucleic acid molecule of claim 3 to express said polypeptide from said nucleic acid molecule and isolating said polypeptide from said host cells or culture media.~~

Claims 13-15 (Cancelled).

16. (Original) detecting the presence of a nucleic acid molecule in claim 1 in a sample comprising:

- a) contacting the sample with a nucleic acid probe or primer which selectively hybridizes to the nucleic acid molecule; and
- b) determining whether the nucleic acid probe or primer binds to a nucleic acid molecule in the sample to thereby detect the presence of a nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 in the sample.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the sample comprises mRNA molecules and is contacted with a nucleic acid probe.

Claims 18-23 (Cancelled).

24. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 which comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:3 or a complement thereof.

25. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 which encodes a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

26. (New) A host cell which contains the nucleic acid molecule of claim 4.

27. (New) The host cell of claim 26 which is a mammalian host cell.

28. (New) The mammalian host cell of claim 27 which is non-human.

29. (New) A method for producing a polypeptide comprising culturing a host cell harboring the nucleic acid molecule of claim 4 to express said polypeptide from said nucleic acid molecule and isolating said polypeptide from said host cells or culture media.